ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alicja Kwade was born in Katowice, Poland and studied sculpture at the University of the Arts in Berlin, where she lives and works. She has exhibited internationally, including at Manchester House, Reykjavik, Iceland; Berlinische Galerie, Berlin; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Dallas Contemporary, Texas; and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan. Kwade is also participating in the 27th Venice Biennale, where she has been selected for the commission. Kwade is a recipient of the Wei-Hsin Gallery and Graduate Study Grant, Washington, DC; Center Pompidou, Paris; Art Fundation, Hong Kong; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark; Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland; and the Wroclaw Contemporary Museum, Poland.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeppe Ugelvig is a curator and critic based in New York. His research focuses on aesthetic production under capitalism. Ugelvig completed his MA degree at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, in 2018. His writing frequently appears in Artforum, Frieze, and Spike, among many others. Recent curated exhibitions include The Endless Garment at X Museum, Beijing, and Witch-Hunt at Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen. Ugelvig’s book Fashion Work: 25 Years of Art in Fashion, was published by Damiani in 2020.

SPONSORS

Alicja Kwade was selected for the commission by Percent-for-Art committee members, including: Azra Akšamija, Associate Professor, MIT Program for Art, Culture, and Technology; Jon Alvarez, Director, MIT Office of Campus Planning; Richard Amster, Director, MIT Campus Construction; Robert Brown, Director of Perkins & Will Architects, Executive Architects of Kendall Square Initiative; John David, Director, MIT Museum; Paul C. Ha, Director, MIT List Visual Arts Center; Michael Owu, Director, Real Estate at MIT; Stuart Schmill, MIT Admissions; and Emily Watlington, MIT Graduate Student in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art. The List Visual Arts Center, MIT’s contemporary art museum, collects, commissions, and presents rigorous, provocative, and artist-centric projects that engage MIT and the global art community.

ABOUT PUBLIC ART AT MIT

MIT’s world-renowned Public Art Collection reaches across the Institute to excite, challenge, and entertain the MIT community, and visitors alike. New works are added through the Percent-for-Art program on the occasion of new campus construction. Formally instituted in 1968, the program continues to expand MIT’s Public Art Collection through artworks by important and critically acclaimed contemporary artists, including Olafur Eliasson, Jeffrey Gibson, Sol LeWitt, Sarah Sze, and Ursula von Rydingsvard, among others. The List Visual Arts Center oversees MIT’s art collection across campus and presents contemporary exhibitions at the museum located in I. M. Pei’s Wiesner Building (E15). The Public Art Collection and museum are free and open to all.

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The List Visual Arts Center
MIT’s contemporary art museum, collects, commissions, and presents rigorous, provocative, and artist-centric projects that engage MIT and the global art community.

Alicja Kwade
Against the Run
A Percent-for-Art Commission
MIT Kendall Square Initiative

Against the Run, 2019. MIT Collection commissioned with MIT Percent-for-Art funds. Photo: Charles Mayer Photography

Alicja Kwade
Against the Run
Against the Run
**“Time is money.” “Lost time is never found again.”**

Jeppe Ugelvig

Alicja Kwade’s work are delivered by the distinguished Bostonian artist that probe the social and scientific concepts of time and propose the viewer. Her public commission for the MIT campus at Kendall Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts, became a representative of a rapidly industrializing nation, one in which attention to time and time-keeping grew steadily alongside the emergence of the country’s earliest factories.

In Franklin’s day, factories were simple sheds where many workers toiled together. As the industrial revolution transformed the American economy, the clock became a symbol of productivity and efficiency. In the eighteenth century, the clock had become an essential tool for managing time and organizing work. The advent of the steam engine and the railroad further accelerated the need for precise timekeeping.

**In 2014, she arrived at the trick realized in numerous works of European and American artists. Against the Run is an installation of twelve chrome cabinets of ticking second hands otherwise would. The continuous ticking of the clock is, in fact, accurate. In effect, the bright red second hand otherwise second would be visible but not felt under normal circumstances.**

**In sum, a clock trying to physically escape itself but never succeed. However, as evidenced by Kwade’s long string of time-themed works, these point, more than anything, to modern industrialisation, this regime was widely embraced as the actual metric of work-life, where workers would have to “clock in” and “clock out” for each specific chore in the fields or the home. Historian E. P. Thompson reflects on this in his seminal work *The Making of the Modern Worker*. He argues that the factory regime that disciplines bodies and, in fact, all of society. During the eighteenth century, the clock had become an essential tool for managing time and organizing work. The advent of the steam engine and the railroad further accelerated the need for precise timekeeping.

**Against the Run** is an installation of twelve chrome cabinets of ticking second hands; otherwise, the second hand otherwise would. The continuous ticking of the clock is, in fact, accurate. In effect, the bright red second hand otherwise second would be visible but not felt under normal circumstances. However, as evidenced by Kwade’s long string of time-themed works, these point, more than anything, to modern industrialisation, this regime was widely embraced as the actual metric of work-life, where workers would have to “clock in” and “clock out” for each specific chore in the fields or the home. Historian E. P. Thompson reflects on this in his seminal work *The Making of the Modern Worker*. He argues that the factory regime that disciplines bodies and, in fact, all of society. During the eighteenth century, the clock had become an essential tool for managing time and organizing work. The advent of the steam engine and the railroad further accelerated the need for precise timekeeping.

**Kwade does not attempt to talk about it but instead delivers visual and philosophical provocations to those who view her sculptures.**

**For her first public art commission in the United States, Kwade installed a clock at the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in 1785 on Milk Street, just across the Charles River from MIT’s present-day campus, the polymath and early US politician Benjamin Franklin, born in Table 1: Dimensions of works by Alicja Kwade.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Title</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Against the Run</td>
<td>114.1/2 × 32 × 6.6 cm</td>
<td>Chrome lacquer, MDF, pedestal, infinite, ∞, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∞</td>
<td>12½ × 1¾ × 78¾ in.; 77/8 × 24 × 4 cm</td>
<td>Steel, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∞</td>
<td>13/4 × 1¾ × 17/8 in.; 41 × 4.5 × 11.5 cm</td>
<td>Steel, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∞</td>
<td>14 × 14 × 14 in.; 35.5 × 35.5 × 35.5 cm</td>
<td>Steel, 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alicja Kwade’s Against the Run**

Jeppe Ugelvig